relating to the movement of the object, wherein the information relating to the movement of the object is motion vectors respectively corresponding to a plurality of detecting areas set in an imaging area of the imaging device.

Kinjo discloses a method of automatically controlling taking exposure and focusing in a camera and a method of controlling printing exposure. The device includes a camera apparatus having an imaging device 20. A position/distance detecting circuit 26 and main object detecting circuit 30 detect information relating to the movement of an object on the basis of the output of the imaging device 20. The main object detecting circuit outputs the distance to the main object to the lens setting unit 32 and the taking exposure control circuit 34. Exposure control circuit 34 controls the diaphragm of lens 33 with diaphragm driver 47 and controls shutter with the shutter speed driver 48. The lens setting unit 32 controls the lens 33 whereby the lens 33 has the proper focus for the distance determined to the main object. Kinjo teaches setting the exposure according to the distance to the main object determined by the main object detecting circuit 30.

As admitted in the Office Action, Kinjo fails to disclose or suggest information relating to the movement of the object is motion vectors respectively corresponding to a plurality of detecting areas set in an imaging area of the imaging device. However, the Office Action asserts that Nishida discloses the subject matter lacking in Kinjo. Applicants respectfully disagree for the following reasons.

Nishida discloses a photographic optical control system wherein lens focusing control and exposure control is accomplished based on image signals from the imaging element. A received image is converted into an electrical signal wherein a band pass

filter (BPF) extracts the high-frequency component, which is fed to a motion vector detecting circuit 68 for detecting the motion of the image from two time-continuous image frames. See col. 4, line 56 - col. 5, line 1, for example. The lens 58/86 is automatically focused at a position where the maximum high-frequency component of the video signal is achieved.

Nishida detects the motion of the main object by the motion vector detecting circuit 108 to move the photometric area to the position of the main object by the photometric area controlling circuit 110. Thus, the position of the photometric area is relocated to the main object.

In contrast, Applicants' claimed invention relates at least to the movement of the object rather than the position of where the object is moving to. That is, neither Kinjo nor Nishida provide the ability to detect information relating to, for example, the "speed" of the moving object and adjusting the shutter speed of the diaphragm on the basis of the amount of the movement of the object. Accordingly, even if combined, the combination would simply disclose a device where "positional" or "distance" information is determined and adjustment of the exposure is based thereupon. The combination would not adjust the exposure means based on the "movement" itself.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Kinjo nor Nishida, individually or in combination, disclose or would have rendered obvious the Applicants' invention.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 7. Thus, for at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kinjo in view of Nishida, and further in view of Nakano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,043,816). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nakano simply discloses an electronic still camera wherein a plurality of images are temporarily stored in a semiconductor memory 22. A shutter control circuit 14 controls the auto-focusing mechanism and automatic exposure mechanism to adjust the focusing and exposure. The images stored in the semiconductor memory 22 are displayed in a monitor 34. See abstract, col. 4, lines 20-23, and col. 5, lines 56-60, for example. The photographer judges the quality of the stored images by depressing forward or backward keys on a key input unit 35. See col. 8, lines 3-7. The photographer may also "correct" an image by selecting correcting mode functions. See col. 7, lines 48-60, for example. After images have been confirmed by the photographer, it can select a desired image to finally recorded onto a floppy disk 28. See col. 8, lines 23-46, for example.

Images stored in the semiconductor memory 22 are not exposure control adjusted for motion. Only after the images are stored in the semiconductor memory 22, are they evaluated for motion. Nakano does not actually control the exposure of the initial image, but, rather "corrects" the images after they are captured.

In view of the above, it is readily apparent that Nakano does not supply the subject matter lacking in Kinjo and Nishida regarding adjusting the exposure means for the basis of the detected information relating to the movement of the object, as discussed above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Kinjo, Nishida and Nakano, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest all the claimed

features of Applicants' invention.

Claim 6 depends from claim 7. Thus, for at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

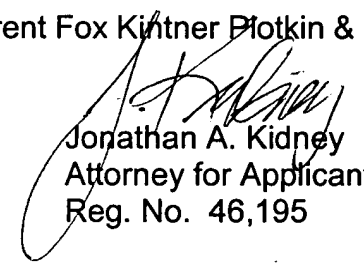
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims of this application contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300, referring to docket number 107314-08005.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn



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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (3 months)